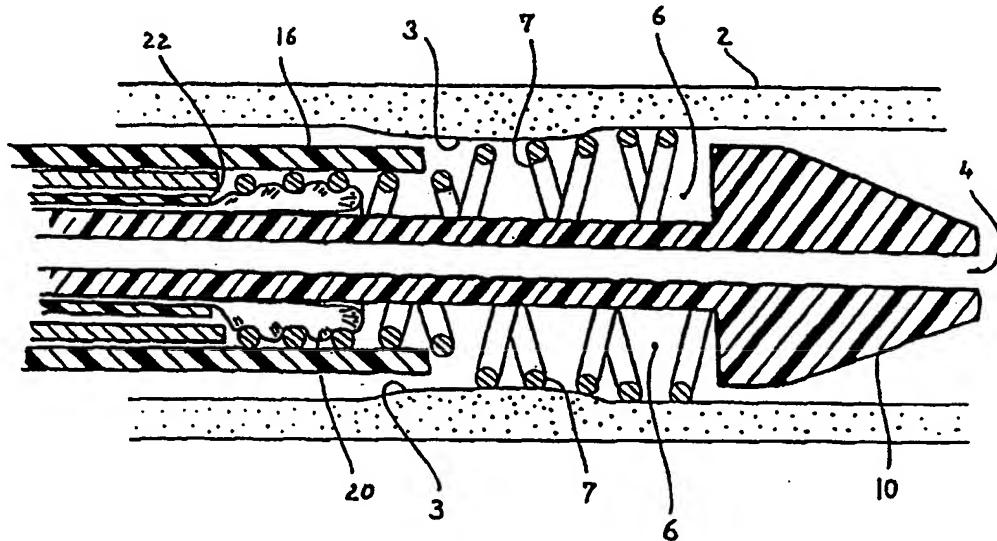




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : A61F 2/06		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/47075
			(43) International Publication Date: 23 September 1999 (23.09.99)
(21) International Application Number:	PCT/IB99/00446	(81) Designated States:	AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date:	16 March 1999 (16.03.99)		
(30) Priority Data:	98200834.4 17 March 1998 (17.03.98) EP 09/086,535 29 May 1998 (29.05.98) US		
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):	MEDICORP S.A. [FR/FR]; Technopôle de Nancy Brabois, 5, allée Pelletier-Doisy, F-54600 Villers-lès-Nancy (FR).		
(72) Inventor; and		Published	
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):	MARIANNE, Mickaël [FR/FR]; 36, place des Vosges, F-54000 Nancy (FR).		With international search report.
(74) Agents:	VANDEBERG, Marie-Paule_ et al.; 32, avenue Wolfers, B-1310 La Hulpe (BE).		

(54) Title: REVERSIBLE-ACTION ENDOPROSTHESIS DELIVERY DEVICE



(57) Abstract

A reversible-action endoprostheses delivery device (1) comprising an axially extending inner tube (8) surrounded by an outer sheath (16) comprising remotely activable retaining means (20) for maintaining or releasing the endoprostheses (7) in a fixed axial relationship relative to the inner tube (8) so that up to the end of the placement procedure, the endoprostheses (7) can be withdrawn and replaced in a more suitable position.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LK	Sri Lanka	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LR	Liberia	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark			SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

Reversible-action endoprosthesis delivery device.DESCRIPTION :

The invention concerns devices for the placement of luminal endoprostheses in animal, including human body vessels.

In particular, it relates to such a device for the deployment and retraction of a stent, particularly a self-expanding stent.

Advance in angioplasty now results in a particular attention to be given to the precise positioning of endoprostheses in vessels to be cured. This is particularly true for small vessels.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION :

Several attempts have already been made to achieve the possibility of controlling the position of a stent in a delivery device during the placement operation, before its full length becomes radially expanded.

US 5,026,377 discloses a stent delivery device for a self-expanding stent such as the one disclosed in US-A-4,665,771. The proximal end of the stent to be released is fastened to a central pusher of the device either by an adhesive, or by a local widening of this pusher.

WO 96/13228 discloses a stent delivery device provided with a soft "recapture sleeve" - generally bearing crossed grooves - located on the central pusher of the device in order to prevent axial displacement of a self-expanding stent relative to the pusher before a given fraction of the length of the stent has been allowed to expand.

In practice, however, these devices do not provide fully reliable results.

Just before its deployment in the vessel, the stent is located inside a chamber toward the distal end of

the delivery device. Once the stent has been partially deployed and hence allowed to expand, it places itself against the interior wall of the vessel. It proves difficult to force it back into the chamber. Indeed, 5 instead of entering back the chamber, the stent is often ripped out of the end of the delivery device and thus can no longer be displaced without being destroyed or removed by surgery.

Furthermore, the recapture means of the devices 10 according to the state of the art add to the radial cumbersomeness of the delivery device.

There has therefore been a strong need for a space-saving and efficient reversible-action endoprosthesis delivery device.

15 BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION :

A precise positioning of the stent requires a precise control of its position via the pusher, whatever the solicitations the stent is subjected to.

To this end the invention provides a 20 reversible-action endoprosthesis delivery device extending between a distal end and a proximal handling end, comprising an axially extending inner tube surrounded by an outer sheath, the inner tube comprising, near its distal end, a chamber able to enclose an expendable endoprosthesis 25 in a radially contracted state, the inner tube being axially movable relative to the outer sheath. The delivery device of the invention is characterised in that it comprises remotely activable retaining means for selectively maintaining the endoprosthesis in a given axial 30 relationship in relation to the inner tube and releasing same. Remotely activable retaining means have now been developed, allowing the possibility of entering vessels of small diameter, a strong retaining effect being produced at will when the proximal end of the delivery device carrying 35 the stent has been driven up to the place to be cured. Because the means are remotely activable the retaining

force can be applied when needed and at the position where such force is needed, making it possible to re-position the stent without damaging the vessel walls.

5 According to a preferred embodiment, the remotely activable retaining means comprises an inflatable balloon fixed to the inner tube, this balloon being connectable to pressure means placed at the proximal end of the delivery device. Thereby a simple, and not cumbersome, 10 yet reliable remotely activable retaining means is provided. Furthermore the strength of the retaining force can accurately be controlled and regulated by means of the pressure in the balloon.

The inflatable balloon is preferably placed near 15 the proximal part of the chamber.

The balloon is advantageously able to be inflated up to a diameter corresponding to the diameter of a body vessel.

Preferably, the device is able to enclose a 20 self-expanding endoprosthesis and particularly an endoprosthesis made of a braid of shape-memory alloy.

The endoprosthesis can also comprise a balloon-expandable stent.

The outer sheath is preferably reinforced by a 25 multiwire braiding, advantageously of metal wires.

Brief description of the drawings

Other advantages of the invention will become apparent when referring to the description hereafter of several embodiments, given as non-limiting examples, 30 reference being made to the appended drawings wherein

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic view of a cross-section of the distal part of one embodiment of a device according to the invention.

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view of the device of 35 Fig. 1 at an early stage of the deployment operation.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic view of the device of

Figs. 1, 2 at a later stage of the deployment operation.

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic view of a possible use of a device according to Fig. 1 after complete release of a stent.

5 Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic view of another embodiment of the device at a stage corresponding to Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic view of still another embodiment at the same stage of deployment.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS :

On Fig. 1, a delivery device 1 according to the invention has been introduced, according to a known procedure, up to a lesion 2 to be cured in a body vessel 3, in the present case a stenosis in an artery 3.

15 The distal end 4 of the device comprises a chamber 6 wherein an expandable endoprosthesis - represented here as a self-expanding stent 7 - has been inserted in a radially contracted state.

The chamber 6 extends around an inner tube 8, 20 between an atraumatic tip 10 and a stent pusher 12. An axial lumen 14 allows the whole delivery device 1 to be driven along a guide wire (not shown).

The chamber 6 is closed by an outer sheath 16 which is axially movable at will relative to the inner 25 tube 8.

The optimal position of the stent 7 after release and expansion can be carefully checked before starting the release process thanks to the presence of radio-transparent markers 18 embedded in the otherwise 30 radio-opaque outer sheath 16.

The delivery device 1 according to the invention also comprises a remote controlled retaining device, that in the present embodiment comprises an inflatable micro-balloon 20 connected to pressure means (not 35 represented) placed at the proximal end of the delivery device 1.

During the insertion steps, the micro-balloon 20 remains in a deflated state, this having virtually no influence on the diameter of the device 1, which can be inserted into very thin vessels 3.

5 The supposedly optimal position of the device for the deployment of the stent being determined, the micro-balloon 20 is slightly inflated, causing the proximal end of the stent 7 to be firmly locked in place with respect to the inner tube 8.

10 The outer sheath 16 can now be moved backwards, as represented on Fig. 2, uncovering the distal end of the stent 7 which expends radially either because of its own resilience, or due to the change of temperature it undergoes in case the stent is made of a material 15 undergoing a phase transition at body temperature.

This stage is critical for most of the delivery devices of the known art which are supposed to have the possibility of forcing back the stent into its chamber.

20 Indeed, as soon as the stent is deployed, it becomes anchored to the inner wall of vessel and it thus exerts on the outer sheath of the device a resistance sufficient to cause its proximal end to be ripped out of the still closed proximal part of the chamber 6.

25 This effect is dramatically increased when the stent is a self-expanding stent, in particular when it is made out of a material undergoing a phase transition (e.g. Nitinol) at body temperature.

With classical delivery devices, the operator 30 does not have the possibility to step backwards when he realizes that, for some reason, the stent is not perfectly at its right place.

On the contrary, remote-activated retaining means 20 that are part of the device 1 according to the 35 invention provides for a very firm grasp on the stent 7, allowing the inner tube 8 to be slid back relative to the

outer sheath 16 up to the initial (closed) position of the chamber 6, even when the stent 7 has been previously deployed up to 80% of its length.

Thanks to the retaining means 20, it has become 5 possible to re-position the stent 7 in a more adequate position, either after an axial displacement, or after a rotation as the case may be.

When the stent 7 has been given its correct position, the retaining device 20 can be deflated and the 10 outer sheath 16 is pulled fully backwards, as represented on Fig. 3.

The device 1 of the invention can then be removed through the expanded stent 7 or, as can be seen from Fig. 4, it can provide for a further advantageous 15 step.

If the control screen reveals that the operation has not been absolutely successful (e.g., as shown on Fig. 3, when the stenosis 2 prevents the stent 7 from fully expanding), it remains possible, without removing the 20 device 1, to further use the retaining micro-balloon 20, acting now, as a classical dilatation balloon, by moving the entire device 1 forwards and inflating the micro-balloon 20 again, this time at a pressure sufficient for it to reach the diameter of the vessel 2 to be cured. 25 The use of the present device 1 thus allows a precious gain on the time spent for the operation and on the pain the patient has to endure.

The pressure required to inflate the micro-balloon 20 is exerted by a fluid carried along a 30 second lumen 22 extending along the axial lumen 4 of the inner tube 8.

This inner tube 8 is preferably rigid, so as to avoid kinking during the introduction steps. PEEK (polyether ketone) or POM (polyacetol) are, inter alia, 35 particularly suitable materials.

The inflatable balloon 20 must also be made of a

rigid and not compliant material, but it can also be compliant so as to comply with the shape of the stent 7. It can be made out of PE or PET (Polyethylene or polyethylene terephthalate).

5 The external diameter and the length of the balloon 20 must be carefully chosen so as to avoid an excessive inflation at its distal end, which could lead to restraining the stent 7 from being driven back into the chamber 6.

10 The outer sheath 16 must of course afford an excellent resistance to compression in order not to become distended by the stent 7. The outer sheath 16 is preferably reinforced by a multiwire braiding 24 as shown in Fig. 5 and 6.

15 Here again, POM or PEEK or other organic materials are best suitable.

The driving fluid can be fed by a known inflation syringe connected to the second lumen 22 via a known Y-adapter (not shown).

20 Figs. 5 and 6 display two possible embodiments of the second lumen 22 and of the balloon 20. As can be seen on Fig. 5, the balloon 20 is fixed at its distal end to the inner tube 8 and, at its proximal end, of the peripheral side of the pusher 12, the second lumen 25 extending between the inner tube 8 and the pusher 12.

Fig. 6 displays an embodiment wherein the inner tube 8 encloses two separated lumens. A first lumen 14 for passing the guide wire 26 is continued through the atraumatic tip 10. A second lumen 22 comprises at least one 30 lateral outlet 28 communicating with the inner volume of the micro-balloon 20. This second lumen 22 is blocked up at its distal end, toward the atraumatic tip 10.

In short, the invention can be described as follows :

35 A reversible-action endoprostheses delivery device (1) comprising an axially extending inner tube (8)

surrounded by an outer sheath (16) comprising remotely activable retaining means (20) for maintaining or releasing the endoprosthesis (7) in a fixed axial relationship relative to the inner tube (8) so that up to the end of the 5 placement procedure, the endoprosthesis (7) can be withdrawn and replaced in a more suitable position.

C L A I M S

1.- A reversible-action endoprosthesis delivery device (1) extending between a distal end (4) and a proximal handling end, comprising an axially extending inner tube (8) surrounded by an outer sheath (16), the inner tube (8) comprising, near its distal end, a chamber (6) able to enclose an expendable endoprosthesis (7) in a radially contracted state, the inner tube (8) being axially movable relative to the outer sheath (16), characterised in that the delivery device comprises remotely activable retaining means (20) for selectively maintaining or releasing the endoprosthesis (7) in a given axial relationship relative to the inner tube (8) and to release same.

2.- A delivery device (1) according to claim 1 characterised in that the remotely activable retaining means (20) comprises an inflatable balloon (20) fixed to the inner tube (8), this balloon (20) being connectable to pressure means placed at the proximal end of the delivery device (1).

3.- A delivery device according to claim 2 characterised in that the inflatable balloon (20) is placed near the proximal part of the chamber (6).

4.- A delivery device according to claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the balloon (20) is able to be inflated up to a diameter corresponding to the diameter of a body vessel (2).

30 5.- A delivery device (1) according to claim 1 to 5, characterised in that the outer sheath (16) is reinforced by a multiwire braiding.

6.- A delivery device according to claim 5 characterised in that the braiding is made of metal wires.

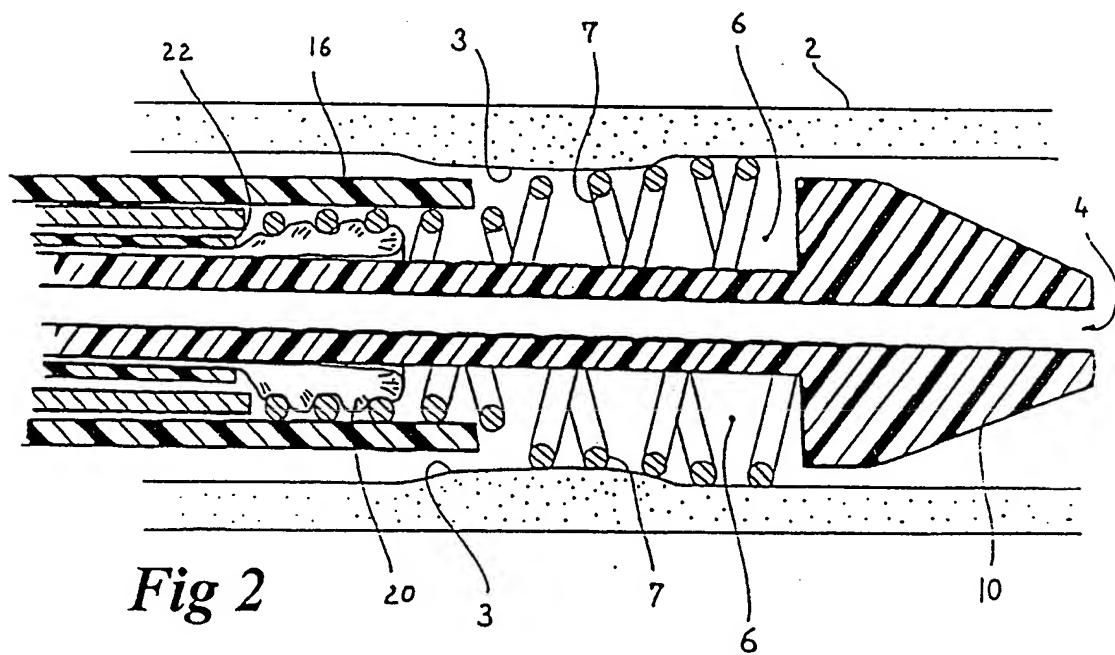
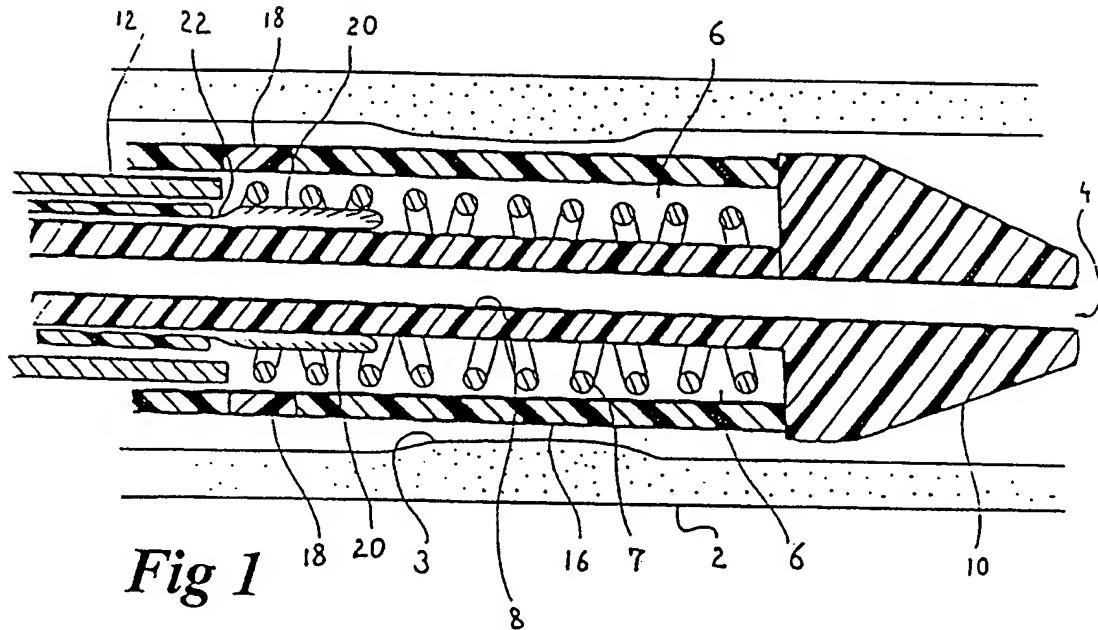
35 7.- A delivery device according to claim 1 to 6 characterised in that it is able to enclose a self-

expandable endoprosthesis (7).

8.- A delivery device according to claim 7, characterised in that it comprises a self-expandable endoprosthesis made of a braid of shape-memory alloy.

5 9.- A delivery device according to claim 1 to 8, characterised in that it comprises an endoprosthesis (7) with a balloon expendable stent.

1/3



2/3

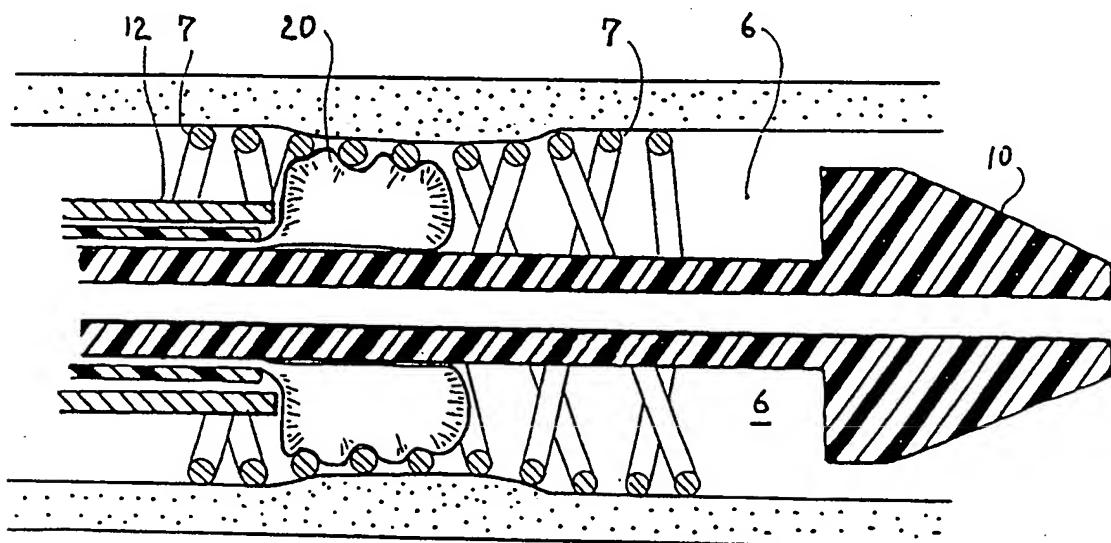
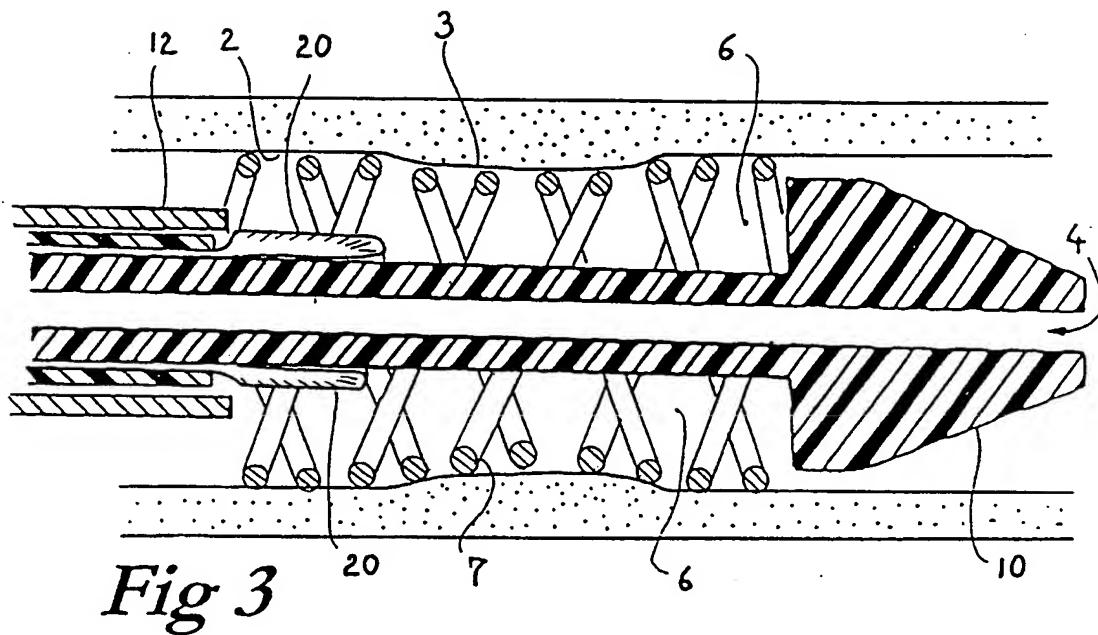


Fig 4

3/3

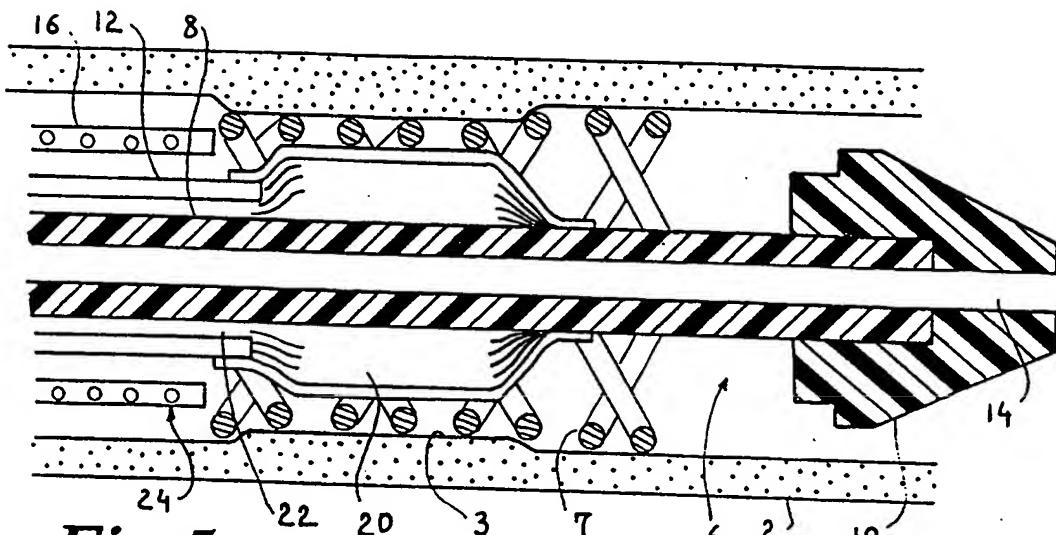


Fig 5

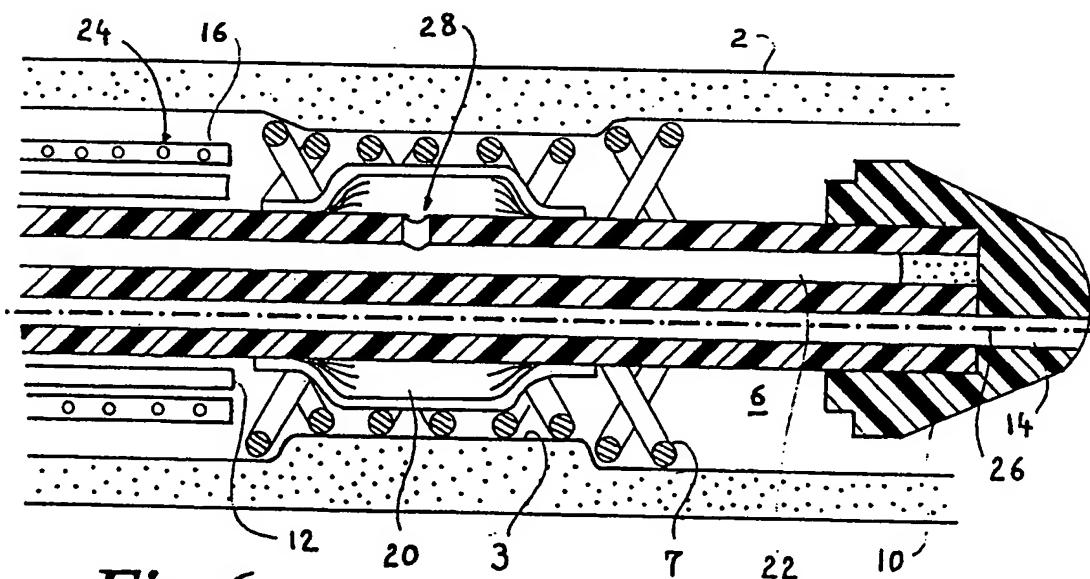


Fig 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No
PCT/IB 99/00446

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61F2/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 17899 A (CORVITA CORP.) 22 May 1997 see abstract see page 4, line 4 - line 17 see page 5, paragraph 4 - page 6, paragraph 2; figures 4-12	1-9
A	US 5 695 499 A (HELGREN ET AL.) 9 December 1997 see abstract see column 1, line 63 - line 65 see column 2, line 14 - line 36; figures 1,2,4,6-8	1-9
A	WO 97 17914 A (SCIMED LIFE SYSTEMS, INC.) 22 May 1997 see abstract see page 3, line 14 - page 5, line 13; figures 1,2,4,5,11 ---	1-9
	-/-	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the International search report

9 June 1999

17/06/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Michels, N

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int	Application No
PCT/IB 99/00446	

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 705 576 A (CORDIS EUROPA N.V.) 10 April 1996 -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte	Application No
PCT/IB 99/00446	

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9717899	A 22-05-1997	US 5700269 A		23-12-1997
		AU 7607796 A		05-06-1997
		CA 2234951 A		22-05-1997
		EP 0862384 A		09-09-1998
		JP 11501244 T		02-02-1999
		NO 982148 A		12-05-1998
US 5695499	A 09-12-1997	CA 2201128 A		09-05-1996
		EP 0788332 A		13-08-1997
		WO 9613228 A		09-05-1996
		JP 10500882 T		27-01-1998
WO 9717914	A 22-05-1997	US 5868753 A		09-02-1999
		US 5785715 A		28-07-1998
EP 0705576	A 10-04-1996	NL 9401571 A		01-05-1996
		JP 8173549 A		09-07-1996
		US 5624450 A		29-04-1997